From: Alex Sagan
To: McGovern, Marc
Subject: Please don't support the boycott
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 4:10:09 PM

Dear Mayor McGovern,

Thank you taking the time to read this note and hear my concerns about the agenda before the Cambridge City Council.

As a long-time Cambridge resident and voter, a historian at Harvard, and an active participant in our civic life (I've served as an appointee on four city committees), I am writing you today with concerns about an ill-informed boycott agenda being pushed on the City Council.

The proposed boycott of Hewlett-Packard is a calculated effort to stigmatize Israel, and to single it out for condemnation through a process which lacks transparency and undermines efforts for peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. I hope you will not support such a policy in the name of the city and citizens of Cambridge.

As you know, the contents of the proposed resolution have been kept confidential, contrary to open discussion and democratic process, but enough is known about the sponsoring organizations and the goals of the resolution to understand that what is proposed is neither coherent city policy nor true advocacy of the conditions that can produce peace in the Middle East.

We would do better to consider the positions taken by mainstream organizations who advocate for peace and a two-state solution, all of which oppose such boycotts and the so-called BDS movement. Here is the J-Street position on BDS boycotts:

https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fjstreet.org%2Fpolicy%2Fboycott-divestment-and-sanctions-bds%2F%23.WtjxqGaZOL5&data=02%7C01%7Cmmcgovern%40cambridgema.gov%7C6c8c0fc86db54a72384408d5a6318b4c%7Cc06a8be784794d73b35193bc9ba8295c%7C0%7C1%7C636597654085656628&sdata=4WovBolKTlyGp9M%2FEf2p2zQEdF4Cz9Mei4XhwlXnsHg%3D&reserved=0

Boycotts such as the one proposed will only strengthen extremists. I sincerely ask as a Cambridge voter that you not support it.

Thank you,

Alex Sagan, Ph.D.
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